

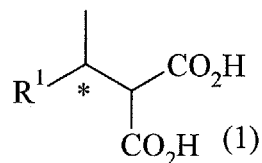
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

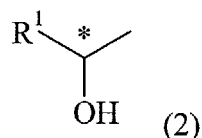
1.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A method for producing (R)- or (S)-1-methylalkyl malonic acid having an optical purity of 90% e.e. or greater, which is represented by the following formula (1):

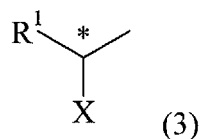


wherein R¹ represents an alkyl group containing 3 to 5 carbon atoms, and * represents an asymmetric carbon,

which comprises allowing optically active alcohol represented by the following formula (2) to react with a sulfonylation agent:

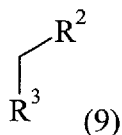


wherein R¹ has the same definition as described above, and * represents an asymmetric carbon, so as to obtain an optically active compound represented by the following formula (3):

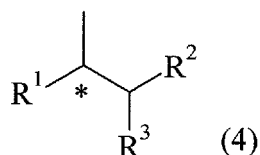


wherein R^1 has the same definition as described above, X represents a sulfonyloxy group, and * represents an asymmetric carbon;

allowing the optically active compound to react with a carbon nucleophile represented by the following formula (9) in the presence of a base:



wherein each of R^2 and R^3 independently represents an ester group, a carboxyl group, or a cyano group, wherein R^2 and R^3 may together form a cyclic structure, so as to obtain an optically active compound represented by the following formula (4):



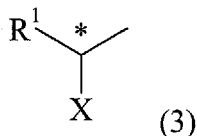
wherein R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 have the same definitions as described above, and * represents an asymmetric carbon, and

hydrolyzing the obtained optically active compound.

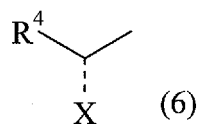
9.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the optically active alcohol represented by formula (2) is ~~2-pentanone~~ 2-pentanol or ~~2-hexanone~~ 2-hexanol;

the optically active compound represented by formula (3):

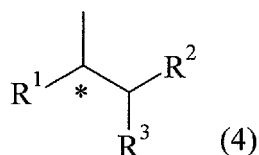


is an optically active substance represented by formula (6):

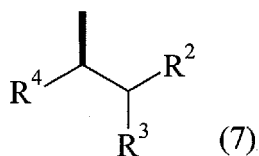


wherein R^4 represents an n-propyl group, and X represents a sulfonyloxy group;

the optically active compound represented by the following formula (4):

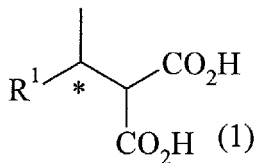


is an optically active compound represented by the following formula (7):

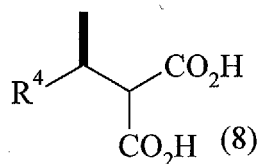


wherein R^2 and R^3 have the same definitions as described above, and R^4 represents an n-propyl group or an n-butyl group; and

the (R)- or (S)-1-methylalkyl malonic acid represented by the following formula (1):



is a compound represented by the following formula (8):



wherein R⁴ has the same definition as above.

21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the method produces (R)- or (S)-1-methylalkyl malonic acid having an optical purity of 95% e.e. or greater.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the method produces (R)- or (S)-1-methylalkyl malonic acid having an optical purity of 99% e.e. or greater.